

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 28233 252255Z

73

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AEC-07 FEA-01 ACDA-10 CIAE-00

INR-07 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 RSC-01 SS-15 PM-03

SP-02 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /099 W

----- 107978

R 252231Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4582

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS PARIS 28233

DEPT FOR OES/SCI/AE, PASS AEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH

SUBJECT: FRENCH BUY SOVIET URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES

1. SOVIETS HAVE SOLD EDF, THE FRENCH NATIONAL UTILITY, 700,000 SWU'S OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT SERVICES PER YEAR BETWEEN 1979 AND 1983, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS AND CEA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE. THE FRENCH WILL PROVIDE THE NATURAL URANIUM. THIS IS THE SECOND PURCHASE BY THE FRENCH OF SOVIET ENRICHMENT SERVICES. THE FIRST CAME IN MARCH 1971, WHEN THE FRENCH CONTRACTED FOR ABOUT 75,000 SWU'S OF ENRICHMENT SERVICES FROM THE SOVIETS FOR THE FIRST CHARGE OF THE FESSENHEIM REACTOR, DUE TO GO INTO OPERATION IN THE SPRING OF 1976.

2. ECONOMIC DAILY "LES ECHOS ADDS THAT FRANCE IS PRESENTLY BUILDING A STOCK OF ENRICHED URANIUM EQUAL TO ONE OR TWO YEARS' CONSUMPTION AND THAT THE FRENCH CONCLUDED THE PURCHASE IN MOSCOW LAST SEPTEMBER BUT KEPT IT SECRET TO AVOID DIPLOMATICALLY DISTURBING THE EURATION SUPPLY AGENCY.

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3. COMMENT: THREE FACTORS MAY EXPLAIN SIZE OF CONTRACT, WHICH WE ESTIMATE AT WELL OVER \$100 MILLION:
1) INCREASED DEMAND OWING TO ACCELERATED NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM; 2) DESIRE TO SECURE SUPPLIES WITH A LARGE STOCKPILE; 3) A LESS THAN TOTAL CONFIDENCE, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF EDF, THAT EURODIF WILL BEGIN PRODUCTION ON TIME.
RUSH

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SALES, URANIUM, SUPPLIES
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Draft Date: 25 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
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